

KESWICK
URBAN -:- SANITARY -:- DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1904.

KESWICK :
H. SLADE WILSON, MARKET PLACE,
1905.



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R E P O R T .

TO THE KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

Though the accompanying tables of statistics dealing with Births, Deaths, and Zymotic Disease, for the year 1904, contain most of the matter falling under these headings, some comments upon them may not be out of place.

BIRTHS. The number of births registered in the District during the past year has been 94, as compared with an average of 104 for the previous ten years—thus giving a rate of 21·11 per 1000 of the population. And since the Infantile Mortality is calculated in

INFANTILE MORTALITY. deaths per 1000 births, this decrease accounts for the increased death-rate (117·02) in infants under one year as compared with the average (115·6) for the previous ten years. At the same time this mortality is considerably less than in 1903 and still well below the average for the whole of England and Wales.

You will remember that cards of instruction as to the bringing up of Children have been printed and distributed, in the hope that one factor—the ignorance of parents and others—may be eliminated from among the causes of Infantile Mortality, but unfortunately owing to the Registrar of Births not having been permitted to undertake the systematic distribution of these cards, it is to be feared that the advantages which it promised, may in time be lost for want of method.

On analysing the causes which have produced this mortality, it is somewhat consoling to note that only three—Diarrhœa 1, Whooping Cough 1, and Overlaying 1—could be classed as preventable, while seven were occasioned by prematurity of birth.

Turning to the General Death-rate, it is gratifying
DEATH RATE. to note a slight improvement on the previous year.

Sixty-three deaths in all have been recorded, giving a rate of mortality of 14·15 per 1000, and of these twenty-seven occurred in persons over 65 years of age. Again Cancer and Heart Disease play a prominent part in their causation, but what is more regrettable, is the startling increase in the number of deaths from Phthisis and other forms of Tuberculosis, and this at a time when it might have been expected that the adoption of preventive measures would have begun to tell in the opposite direction. One additional means however—thorough isolation for at least one case—has now been acquired in the Bleneathra Sanatorium, where a bed is reserved for Keswick patients, the Council paying half the cost and the balance being made up by private effort.

Another regrettable feature in the past years record—not present in that of 1903—is the occurrence of two deaths from Zymotic disease, one from Enteric and the other from Diphtheria.

The rarity of Enteric Fever (only one previous case
ENTERIC having been notified during my term of office), rendered our alarm all the greater when in September,
FEVER. two cases were notified. Upon enquiry it was ascertained that these as well as a third which occurred beyond the District, had been associated in their work and probably derived infection from the same source. The suspected premises were consequently thoroughly overhauled and though no one particular defect could be blamed for the outbreak, there was a general state of imperfect sanitation calling for and receiving prompt amendment.

As it seemed desirable at this time that every facility should be offered of arriving at a definite opinion in doubtful cases, the Council made provision for the free application of the valuable Widal test in such circumstances.

Of the two cases of Diphtheria notified, the first was **DIPHTHERIA.** a very mild one and soon recovered, though the child was for some weeks excluded from school attendance until after repeated examination no infective bacilli could be found in the throat. The second case terminated fatally after a brief illness. It was unconnected with the first, and in neither could any definite origin be discovered.

Early in September Scarlet Fever broke out in **SCARLET** Wordsworth Street, and after the first three cases, **FEVER.** which all occurred at one house, had been removed to Hospital, they were followed at intervals by four more from various parts of the District—all of which were similarly isolated—the infected premises being afterwards disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

The only other notifications were five cases of **ERYSIPELAS.** sipelas, none of which appeared to arise from insanitary conditions.

GERMAN An epidemic of German Measles, necessitating the **MEASLES AND** closure of the High School, and Chicken pox among **CHICKEN POX.** the Infants' of St. John's, leading to the closure also of this branch of the School, have further to **RINGWORM.** be recorded, while, though Ringworm is less prevalent, the old difficulty of obtaining certificates of freedom from infection in the case of children returning to School after recovery from this or other contagious illness still presents itself, neither the Education nor the Sanitary Authority being willing to bear the cost.

Fortunately, in spite of the wide distribution of Smallpox and the freedom of our communication with all parts, no case has arisen in this District, the White Moss Hospital remaining unoccupied—an essential safe-guard nevertheless, to the public health and prosperity.

No cases of overcrowding have been reported. The **HOUSING, &c.** Ventilation of Cottages at Brigham and High Briery has been much improved by new window fittings, and in King's Head Yard, additional Sanitary conveniences have been provided by order of the Council.

Plans for new buildings continue to be submitted for examination by the Council, Surveyor and myself, before being passed, and on completion the buildings and drainage are inspected by the Surveyor before the necessary certificate for occupation is granted.

The Common Lodging Houses have from time to time been inspected. They fail to comply with the Bye-Laws in several important particulars, but appear otherwise to be on the whole, well kept.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Cattle are still subject
MILK. to periodic inspection, and the quarterly reports of Veterinary Inspector continue to yield valuable information. No objections have been raised to his visiting Dairies, which though beyond the district, supply it with milk ; so that in this manner the whole supply is capable of supervision. On one occasion he discovered three cattle with diseased udders, and though assured that from none of these was milk supplied for human consumption, it was considered prudent to urge that they should be got rid of, and this was accordingly done.

The supply of Water has continued amply sufficient
WATER. throughout the year, and the much-needed new service has been laid to Wordsworth and Helvellyn Streets. The abundance of the supply however is no justification for the enormous waste which has been demonstrated incidentally while testing the flow in the sewers. It is largely with a view to checking this loss that a special plumber has been appointed, whose duty it will be to inspect all house fittings, and report defects, whereupon notices will be served on the householders concerned, requiring them to put their fittings in proper repair.

Very great improvements have been made in the
ASHPITS. means of collecting town refuse. Previously, the number of Ashpits had been gradually diminishing, but many remained in an insanitary condition, and it is only recently that the question has been dealt with in a more sweeping manner, and lasting improvements established.

By serving notices on householders whose Ashpits did not comply with the Bye-Laws (and very few could be found which did so),

requiring them to make them so comply, or as an alternative to provide a suitable receptacle from which the ashes could be collected, it was soon found that the latter course was almost universally adopted, until now the insanitary Ashpit has been almost entirely replaced by the sanitary dust-bin, with consequent benefit to all.

The question of Middens presented greater difficulties
MIDDENS. which up to the present have not been entirely overcome, but the need for sweeping reforms in this direction is fully recognised. Owners and occupiers are to receive circular reminders of the requirements of the Bye-Laws, and it is anticipated that very substantial improvements will shortly result.

Among the chief Sanitary improvements of the year
SEWERAGE must be mentioned the long, though unavoidably,
AND delayed inclusion of Chesnut Hill in the main sewerage
DRAINAGE. system, by the laying of a new main to this part of the district. Further, the needs of Crowthwaite and Park Holme are being similarly met, and the work now nearing completion. In addition, new connections have been made in St. John's Street, while Acorn Street and Eskin Place have been entirely re-sewered.

There are still houses on Vicarage Hill and elsewhere demanding attention, but the laying down of a new sewer to these parts can only be undertaken as part of the scheme of sewage disposal works which will occupy so much of the attention of the Council through the coming year.

It is to be regretted that pressure of other work
"FACTORY & WORKSHOPS has interfered with the completion of the systematic inspection of all Factories, Workshops and Work-
ACT, 1901." places, commenced last year. During the year nine Factories and ten Workshops have been inspected, and the condition of all found to be satisfactory as regards cubic space, sanitary conveniences, means of escape in case of fire, and general sanitary condition. Nor have any nuisances been reported. As regards the bakehouses, one which was reported as unsuitable for the purpose, has ceased to exist as such, the others remain as before.

I am indebted to Mr. A. Mitchell-Dawson for the following record of Rainfall during the year:—

RAINFALL IN 1904.

AT SHU-LE-CROW HOUSE, KESWICK.

Month.	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours—		No. of days on which ·01 or more fell.
		Depth.	Date.	
January	7·92	1·28	9th	23
February	5·31	1·72	12th	18
March	4·34	1·43	28th	19
April	5·28	1·46	2nd	21
May	3·21	·76	1st	21
June	2·11	·55	14th	13
July	3·59	1·23	15th	14
August	5·18	·81	14th	22
September	2·21	·53	30th	14
October	3·27	1·46	16th	14
November	4·50	1·49	8th	22
December	6·74	1·61	4th	17
Year.	53·66			218

Average here for 32 years, 59·234ins., upon 205·812 days.

A. M.-D.

WHINLATTER HOSPITAL.

From June 19th, 1903, up to September 8th of last year, the Hospital remained empty, but on this latter date a case of Scarlet Fever was admitted. This was followed at intervals of a few days by other six, and it was not until the 27th of November that the last case was discharged.

All were children at ages varying from infancy to seventeen years, and all made good recoveries after an average detention of 44·7 days.

The same caretakers remain in office and continue to discharge their duties most satisfactorily. For a short time while the Hospital was so full, it was found necessary to engage a young woman to help in the domestic work of the institution. As before, fully trained nurses have been employed. At first only one, but subsequently a second for one week, in order to take the night work and help with the young children.

The supply of water has never run out, but the reservoir has been found faulty and will have to be put into good repair before the summer, and then it is to be hoped that the domestic supply of hot water may be installed.

The heating of the building is still quite satisfactory, but the want of ventilation afforded previously by open fires, has necessitated the lighting of fires solely for this purpose. Tobin's tubes would probably go far towards remedying the defect—and these or some other form of ventilators ought to be provided.

Our thanks are due to the Postmaster for kindly arranging for a daily delivery of letters, and to other friends for gifts of toys and books for the patients.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. R. BURNETT,

Medical Superintendent.

Table I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1904 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number	Rate§	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Num-ber.	Rate.§
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number	Rate.§					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1894	4458	116	25.49	14	121	66	15.87					
1895	4451	114	25.83	15	104	80	17.97					
1896	4451	105	23.59	17	161	63	13.45					
1897	4451	84	18.87	6	71.42	38	8.53	1				
1898	4451	101	22.69	9	99	64	14.60	4				
1899	4451	113	25.38	7	61.95	62	11.67	4				
1900	4451	99	22.24	15	151.51	78	15.27	6				
1901	4451	102	22.91	16	156.86	59	13.25	1	0			
1902	4451	89	19.99	7	78.65	59	13.25	5	3	1	57	12.8
1903	4451	119	26.73	18	151.26	67	15.0	3	3	0	64	14.37
Averages for years 1894-1903.	4421.7	104.2	23.37	12.4	115.65	62.6	13.88	3.4	2	.5	60.5	13.58
1904	4451	94	21.11	11	117.02	63	14.15	2			63	14.15

§ Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

The "Public institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—Mary Hewetson Cottage Hospital. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Cumberland Infirmary. Cumberland and Westmorland Lunatic Asylum, Cockermouth Workhouse, Blencathra Sanatorium for Consumptives.

Area of District in acres } Total population at all ages, - 4451
 [exclusive of area } No. of Inhabited Houses, - 990
 covered by water.] } Average No. of Persons per house, 4.49 } At Census of 1901.

Table II.

VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE
LOCALITIES IN 1904 AND
PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.		Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1894	...	4158	116	66	14
1895	...	4451	114	80	15
1896	...	„	105	63	17
1897	...	„	84	38	6
1898	...	„	101	64	9
1899	...	„	113	52	7
1900	...	„	99	78	15
1901	...	„	102	59	16
1902	...	„	89	59	7
1903	...	„	119	67	18
Averages of Years 1894 to 1903.		4421.7	104.2	62.6	12.4
1904	...	4451	94	63	11

Table III.
 CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED
 DURING THE YEAR 1904.

Notifiable Disease.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					Removed to Hospital.
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.				
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	
Small-pox	0					
Cholera	0					
Diphtheria	2		1	1		
Membranous Croup	0					
Erysipelas	5				1	4
Scarlet Fever	7		3	2	2	7
Typhus Fever	0					
Enteric Fever	2				1	1
Relapsing Fever	0					
Continued Fever	0					
Puerperal Fever	0					
Plague	0					
Phthisis (Voluntary)	Cases	never	noti-	fied.		
Totals	16		4	3	4	5
						7

Table IV.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING
YEAR 1905.

Causes of Death.		DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF RESIDENTS WHETHER OCCUPYING IN OR BEYOND THE DIVISION						
		All ages	Under 1 year	1 and 5 under	5 and 15 under	15 and 25 under	25 and 65 under	65 and up- wards
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Small-pox - - - -		0						
Measles - - - -		0						
Scarlet fever - - - -		0						
Whooping-cough - - - -		1	1					
Diphtheria - - - -		1		1				
Croup - - - -		0						
Fever { Typhus - - - -		0						
{ Enteric - - - -		1				1		
{ Other continued - - - -		0						
Epidemic influenza - - - -		0						
Cholera - - - -		0						
Plague - - - -		0						
Diarrhœa - - - -		1	1					
Enteritis - - - -		0						
Puerperal fever - - - -		0						
Erysipelas - - - -		0						
Other septic diseases - - - -		1					1	
Phthisis - - - -		3					3	
Other tubercular diseases - - - -		5		3	2			
Cancer, malignant disease - - - -		5					3	2
Bronchitis - - - -		1						1
Pneumonia - - - -		5		1			1	3
Pleurisy - - - -		0						
Other diseases of Respiratory organs - - - -		2					1	1
Alcoholism } - - - -		0						
Cirrhosis of liver } - - - -		0						
Venereal diseases - - - -		0						
Premature birth - - - -		7	7					
Diseases and accidents of parturition - - - -		0						
Heart diseases - - - -		12					1	11
Accidents - - - -		2	1					1
Suicides - - - -		0						
Bright's disease - - - -		3					1	2
Senile decay - - - -		2						2
Gastric ulcer - - - -		1					1	
Apoplexy - - - -		2					2	
Convulsions - - - -		1		1				
All other causes - - - -		7	1			1	1	4
All causes - - - -		63	11	6	2	2	15	27

